AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

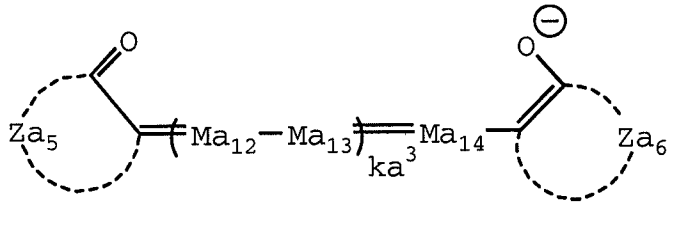
1-15 (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A method for inducing a non-resonant two-photon absorption, which comprises irradiating a non-resonant two-photon absorbing material comprising an oxonol dye undergoing a non-resonant two-photon absorption with a laser ray having a wavelength longer than the linear absorption band of the dye where the two photon cross-section is at least 1000 GM, which is~~and present~~ in the range of 400 to 1,000 nm to induce a two-photon absorption.

17-20 (canceled)

21. (previously presented): The method as described in claim 16, wherein the oxonol dye is represented by the following formula (3):

Formula (3):



CIy

wherein Za_5 and Za_6 each represents an atomic group for forming a 5- or 6-membered ring,

Ma_{12} to Ma_{14} each independently represents a methine group, which may have a substituent or may form a ring together with another methine group,

ka^3 represents an integer of 0 to 3, provided that when ka^3 is 2 or more, multiple Ma_{12}s may be the same or different and multiple Ma_{13}s may be the same or different, CI represents an ion for neutralizing the electric charge, and y represents a number necessary for the neutralization of electric charge.